Alice in Wonderland

LEWIS CARROLL

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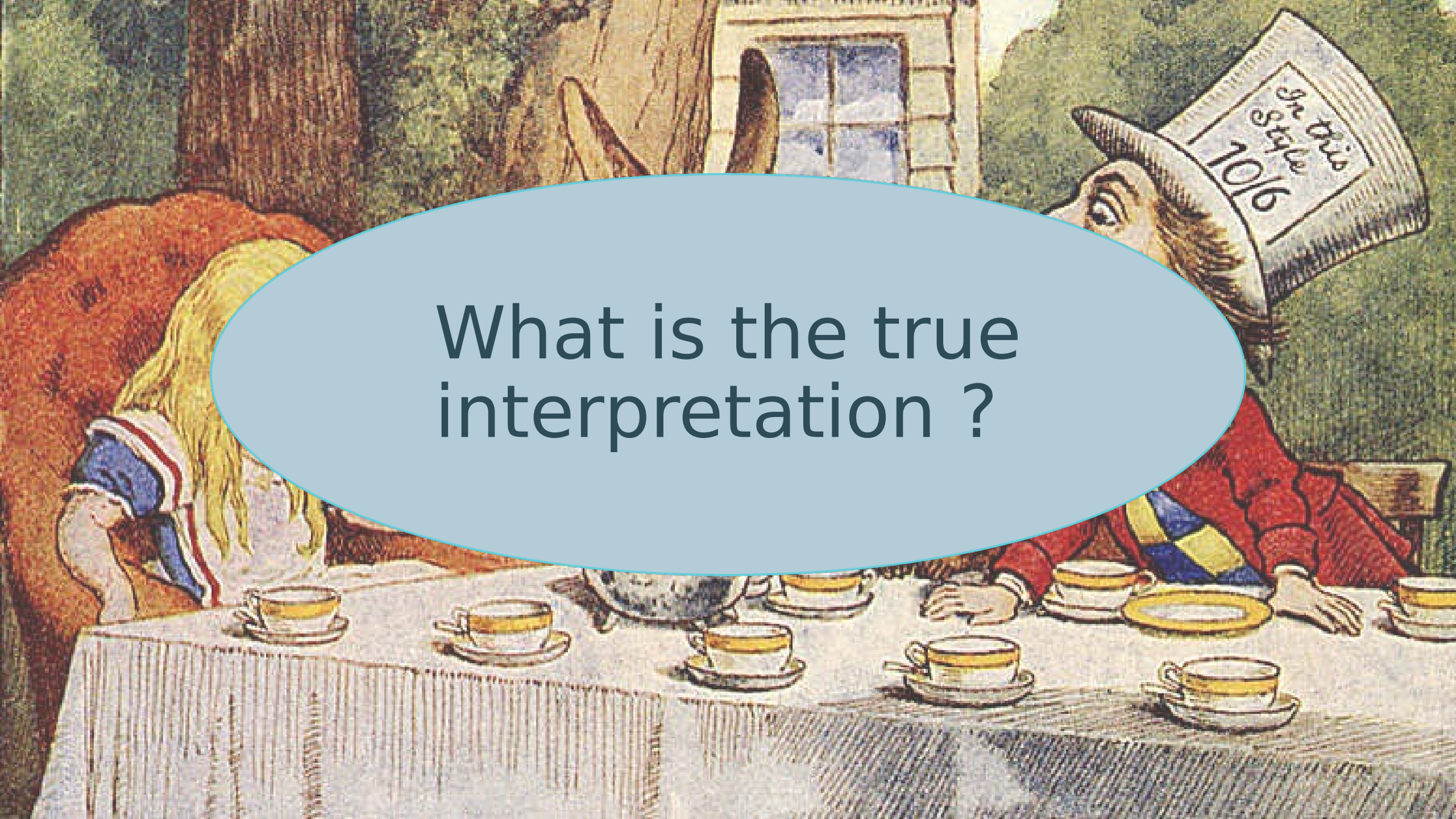


What is the true interpretation ?

OUTLINE

My first impression

The story

Quick biography

Interpretations

Conclusion

My first impression

At first quite enthusiastic to dive into a fascinating childhood story

Unmotivated because of the bizarreness and curiousness

- Perspective: All knowing narrator that shows us Alices dream
- Alice, the protagonist

The story

Alice falls asleep on a hot summer day and dreams of a curious and strange Wonderland.

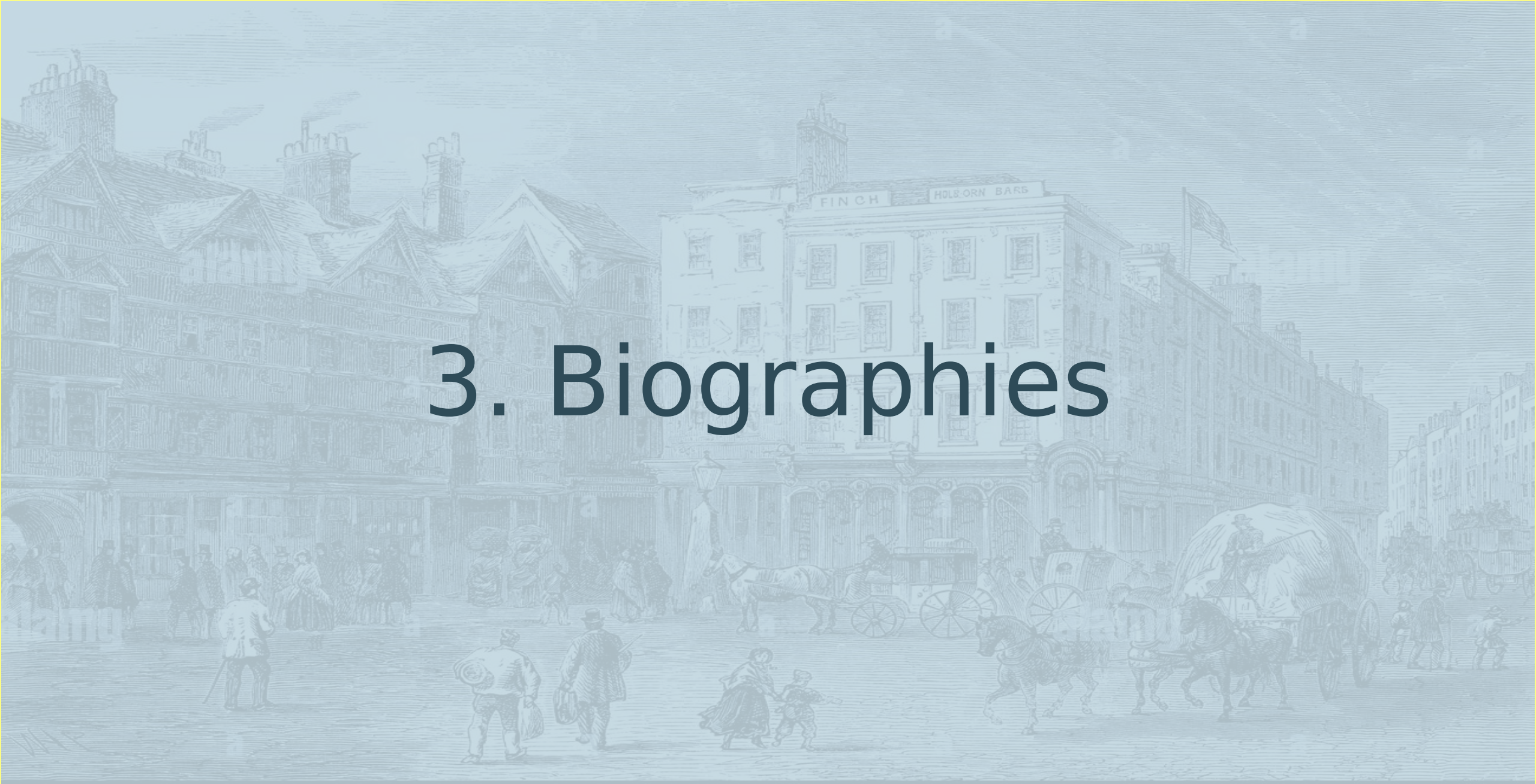
It starts with her falling down a rabbit hole while following the white rabbit and landing in a hallway with doors.

In her quest to find a beautiful garden, she encounters an array of creatures and characters that all seem to be easily offended and kind of bossy.

On her journey through wonderland, she changes her size a number of approximately 13 times.

The story ends with her waking up from the dream and telling her sister about it.

disneyscreencaps.com



3. Biographies

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Lewis Carroll / Childhood

- Born: Charles Lutwidge Dodgson

  27.January.1832, Daresbury
- Homeschooled till 12, after that public school
- Shy child and got bullied
- Had a situational stutter
- Was deaf in one ear due to illness

“But I cannot say that I look back upon my life at a Public School with any sensations of pleasure, or that any earthly considerations would induce me to go through my three years again.”

Written at a later date (1855, extract from Lewis's diary)

Lewis Carroll / Adulthood

- Writer, photographer, mathematician and deacon
- Had friends that were children
- Especially Henry George Liddells children: Alice, Lorina and Edith
- Wrote “Alice in Wonderland” after a picknick, with Robinson Duckworth and the three children
- He also spread nonsensical literature to a global scale
- Died: 14.January.1898, Guildford

Alice Liddell

- Was almost five when she met Lewis Caroll
- Lived at Christ church college, where they met
- Convinced him to write the story down
- Was gifted the first edition of “Alice in wonderland” (then “Alice's Adventures Under Ground”) November 1864

4. Interpretations

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Interpretations

Drugs

Mental health

Growing up / Adulthood

No meaning

1. Drugs

1.The strangeness
2.The Characters
3.Hallucinogenic

1.The strangeness

- The writer must have been on drugs to write this
- Or it describes a drug trip

2.The characters

- The caterpillar smoking a hookah
- The rabbit is on speed
- The mad hatter is on Christal meth
- The cheshire cat is on Nitrous Oxide

"Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?"
"That depends a good deal on where you want to get to," said the Cat.
"I don't much care where—" said Alice.
"Then it doesn't matter which way you go," said the Cat.
"—so long as I get *somewhere*," Alice added as an explanation.
"Oh, you're sure to do that," said the Cat, "if you only walk long enough."

3. Hallucinogenic

- Alice eats and drinks a lot of things
- The world is strange and fluid

2.Mental health
wallpapersus.com

1.Struggle with identity
2.Reflection of the Author
3.Characters

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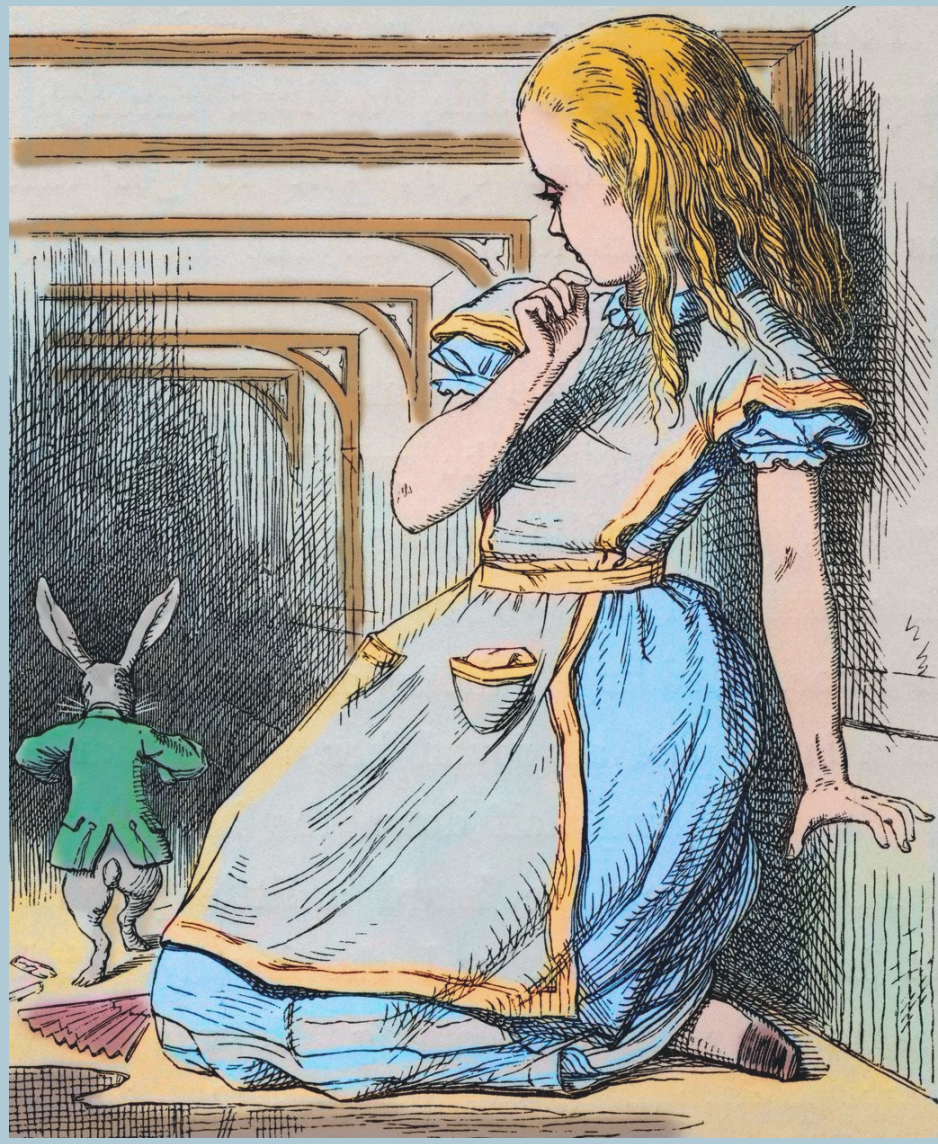
1. Struggle with identity

- Her change of size
- Questioning if she still is herself p.21 & p.46



The author

- Autistic traits:
    - Preference for routines
    - Difficulty with social interactions
    - Logical thinking
- His unlucky childhood

The characters

- The mad hatter :
  - His giddy strangeness
  - Side tangents
- The queen of hearts :
  - World revolves around her
  - Short temper

And in general, the weirdness of the other characters, like the duchess

3.Growing up/Adulthood

1.Constant growing and shrinking
2.The world from a child's eye
3.Struggle with identity
4.The garden

1. Constant growing and shrinking

- She shrinks and grows ca. 13 times

2. The world through a child's eye

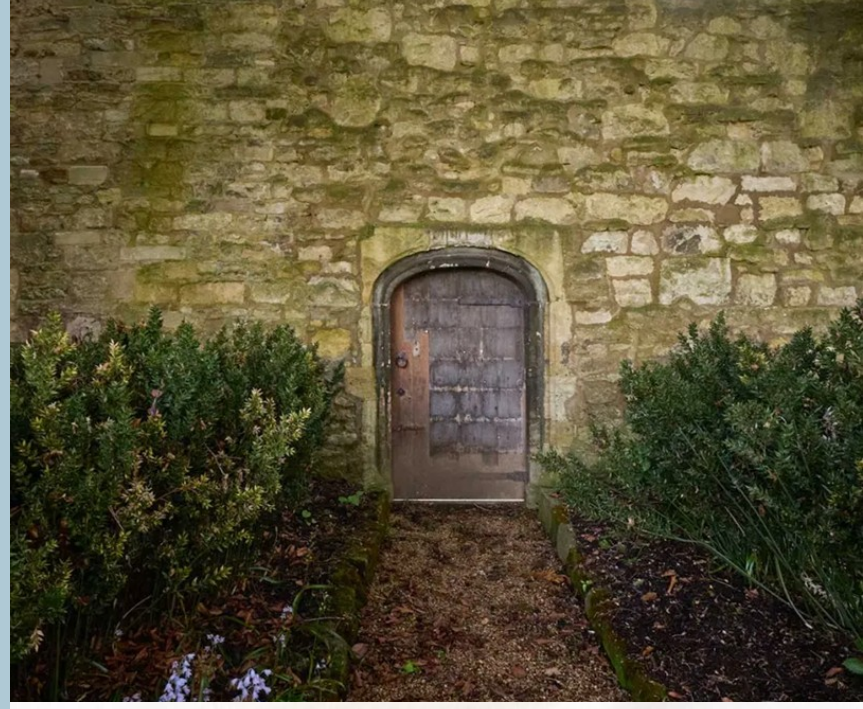
- Encounters are confusing, with things Alice doesn’t understand
- They boss her around
- Rules are made up and others go with it
- Its growing up from a child's perspective

3. Struggle with identity

“Who in the world am I?”

4. The garden

- The garden is based on a real garden
- In the beginning she can't get in
- In the end she does enter the garden



4.No meaning

1.The making fun of
2.Nonsensical literature
3.The way it was created
4.Made for (the Liddell) children

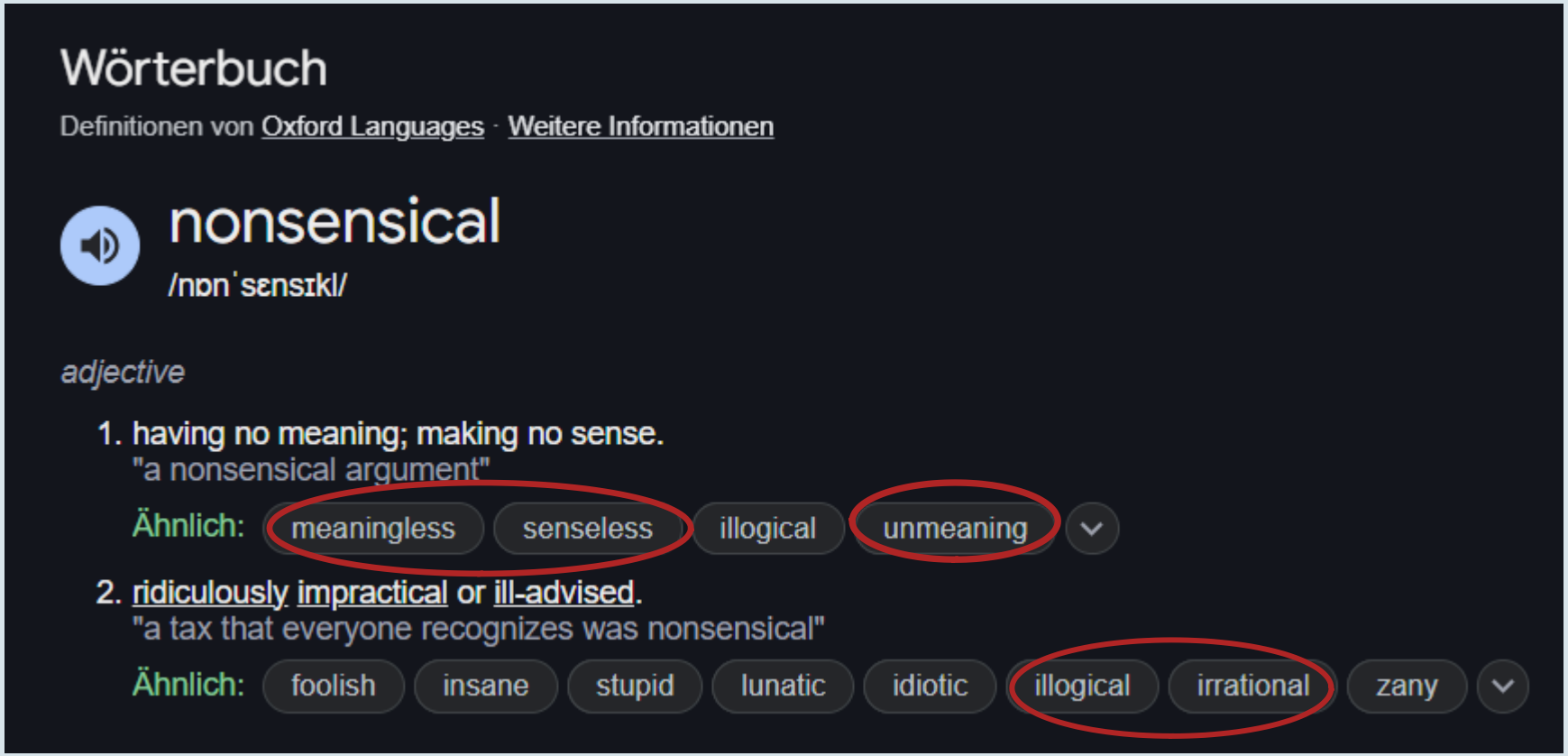
1.The making fun of

- The English history
- The Court
- The poems that Victorian children had to learn

1.The making fun of

- “Against Idleness and Mischief” (Isaac Watts) (page 22)
- “The Old Man’s Comforts and How He Gained Them” (Robert Southey) (page 48-50)
- “Speak Gently” (David Bates) (page 61)
- “The Star” (Jane Taylor) (page 73)
- “The Spider and the Fly” (Mary Howitt) (page 101-102)
- “The Sluggard” (Isaac Watts) (page 105)
- “Star of the Evening” (James M. Sayle) (page 107)
- “The Tarts” (Mother Goose) (page 112)
- “Alice Gray” (William Mee) (page 122)

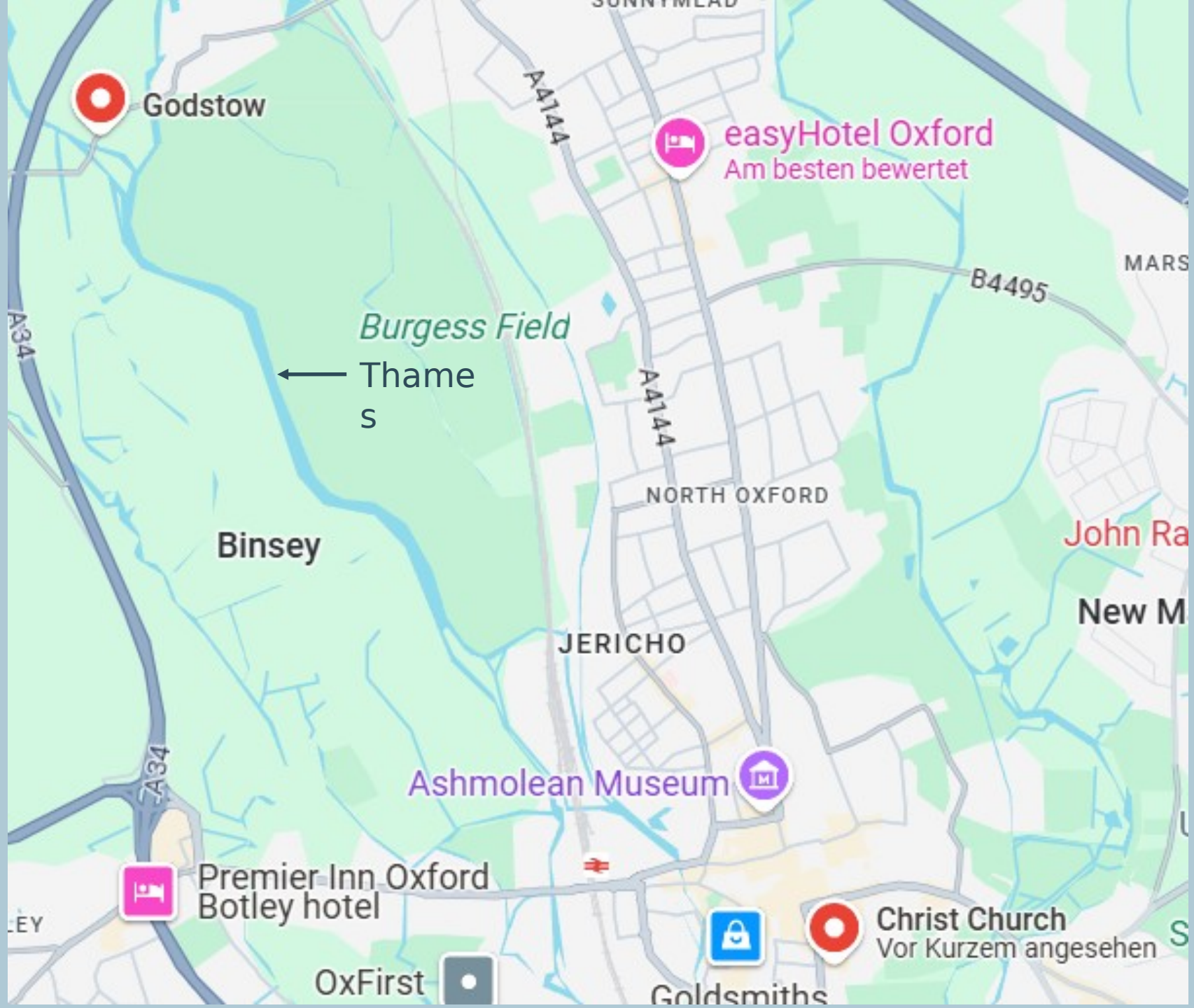
2. Nonsensical literature


Wörterbuch
Definitionen von Oxford Languages · Weitere Informationen
nonsensical
/nɒnˈsɛnsɪkl/
adjective
1. having no meaning; making no sense.
"a nonsensical argument"
Ähnlich: meaningless senseless illogical unmeaning
2. ridiculously impractical or ill-advised.
"a tax that everyone recognizes was nonsensical"
Ähnlich: foolish insane stupid lunatic idiotic illogical irrational zany

3. The way it was created

“I made an expedition up the river [Thames] to Godstow with the three Liddells [and Robinson Duckworth]; we had tea on the bank there, and did not reach Christ Church till half-past eight.”

On July 4, 1862 (extract from his diary)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A34
Ashmolean Museum
Premier Inn Oxford
Botley hotel
Christ Church
Vor Kurzem angesehen
OxFirst
Goldsmiths

4. Made for (the Liddell) children

- Lewis Caroll liked to entertain children and was good at it
- It’s the one of the first books where children have own identity and are a person
- The first book without moral or lesson
- All the parodies, jokes and references

The treacle well

The door to the Deanery garden

5.Conclusion

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Drugs

- It doesn’t hold much water
- There is not much evidence speaking for it
- Beside the caterpillar and none of the characters smoke
- Most sources stating this claim untrue things

Mental health

- It would be unusual for the time
- There aren’t any direct indicator to this
- Doesn’t seem intentional

The riddle of the mad hatter

“Why is a raven like a writing desk?” (page 69)

Answer: “Authors note: Enquiries have been often addressed to me, as to whether any answer to the hatters Riddle can be imagined, that I may as well put on record here what seems to me to be a fairly appropriate answer, viz. “Because it can produce a few notes, though they are very flat; and this is never put with the wrong end in front!” This however is merely and afterthought: the Riddle, as originally invented, had no answer at all.” (Christmas 1896)

Conclusion/my opinion

- No meaning was originally intended
- But there are a lot of themes of growing up

I just think that it should be entertaining over everything else.

Thank you for listening

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